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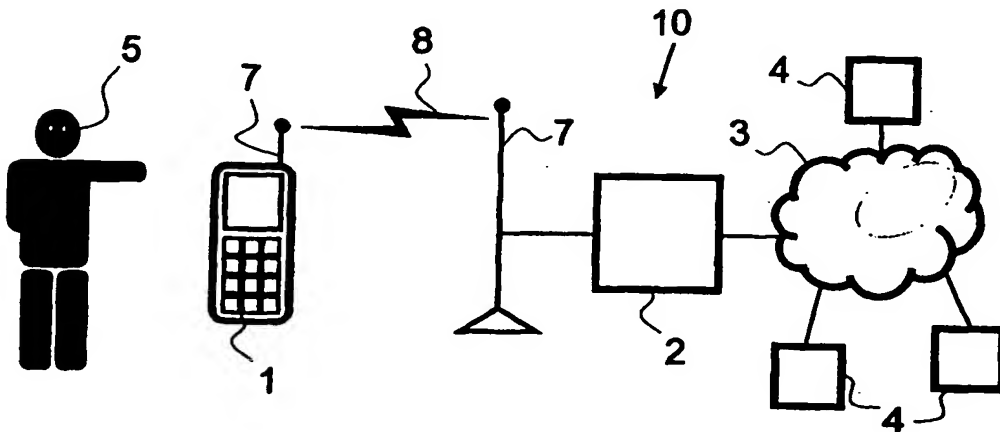
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR THE PHASED RETRIEVAL OF DATA



(57) Abstract: In a method of retrieving electronic messages the server (2) sends the header and the first N text characters of the message body to the terminal device (1), while holding back any remaining text and any attachments. The server also sends a first flag indicative of any remaining text characters and a second flag indicative of any attachments to the terminal device. The user (5) of the terminal device can then decide to retrieve more text characters and/or any attachments. This phased message retrieval avoids downloading oversized messages and thus saves bandwidth. The terminal device (1) may be a handheld device, for example a mobile telephone or a PDA.

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